



## **Dog A.I.D. Client and Dog Eligibility**

Those wishing to be considered for training with their dog must complete the Register an Interest form, found in the 'Become a Client' section of our website.

Once your enquiry has been received it will be reviewed and you will be emailed to acknowledge receipt of your interest.

If we have a trainer available in your area you will be contacted.

### **Eligibility Criteria:**

- Client must be an adult.
- Client is physically disabled, impacting on their mobility and their ability to perform daily tasks such as, but not exclusively:
  - Picking up dropped objects.
  - Opening and closing doors.
  - Finding articles which have been mislaid.
  - Putting washing in and removing from the machine.
  - Placing articles where required.
  - Helping with undressing.

The Social Model of Disability recognises that disabled people are people with impairments who are disabled by their environment. For the eligibility criteria, we have used language from the Equality Act 2010 but support the social model approach that people are disabled by barriers in society, not by their impairment or difference.

Please note: Dog A.I.D. is unable to accept clients whose primary need is an Assistance Dog to assist with mental impairment, visual impairment, hearing impairment, autism, medical alerts, or emotional support. We also do not train any weight bearing or support/balance tasks.

In order for you to be considered you should live within 30 minutes travel time from an available trainer. This is to keep travel time and expenses to a minimum.

If we have multiple applications for the same location, a trainer will be on a 'first come first served basis'.

**Completing the Register of Interest form does not mean that you are a client of Dog A.I.D., this will only be possible when all paperwork and assessments have been completed satisfactorily.**



**Your dog must be less than 5 years of age when entering the programme and a minimum of 12 months old before training can start. You can apply when your dog reaches 9 months old.**

Please think about the areas below before applying to Dog AID for Assistance Dog Training.

#### **Your dog's health:**

- Physically fit; a good weight, muscle tone
- Good teeth condition (particularly important if you wish your dog to retrieve items)
- Clean and healthy skin and coat
- You are required to have annual vet checks with your local surgery to check your dog's health
- They should not have any conditions that will affect their ability to work and carry out taskwork

#### **Socialisation and Habituation:**

- Your dog should be happy, confident and act appropriately around people, animals, unusual objects and in different environments.
- Ask the office for our socialisation and habituation checklists for guidance on what to cover. [Follow this link to send an email](#)
- It is important that your dog is also used to focusing on you around people and other dogs (this is something you will work and build on during your Assistance Dog training)

#### **Basic Obedience**

Your dog should have a basic level of obedience. If your application moves forward, you will need to have an Eligibility Assessment which will assess your dog's temperament and behaviour.

Some of the areas that the trainer will be looking for are:

- Your dog's ability to listen and respond to you
- Your dog's behaviour when handled and groomed
- Your dog's greeting behaviour and response to unfamiliar people
- Your dog's response to other dogs
- Your dog's behaviour around food
- Your dog's response to traffic
- Your dog's response to loud sounds
- Vocalisation behaviour
- Your dog's behaviour around the mode of transport that you use regularly.

Your dog will be assessed on a few basic exercises and your dog should have received some basic obedience/puppy training. This training could be:



- Puppy / adult group classes
- One to one training
- Training delivered by yourself

We will assess the following areas during the Eligibility Assessment:

- Sit
- Down
- Stay (15 seconds a short distance from owner)
- Loose lead (we are not looking for heelwork, just that your dog does not pull excessively)
- Recall (with no distraction at a short distance, this could be demonstrated in the garden)
- Food manners
- Toileting manners (the expectation is that your dog does not toilet within the home environment)

***Please ensure that your dog meets the criteria before applying to Dog A.I.D.***

**End of Document**